

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending.

I. Rejections Over the Prior Art:

In responding to the Examiner's prior art rejections, Applicant here only justifies the patentability of independent claim 1. As the Examiner will appreciate, should independent claim 1 be patentable over the prior art, narrower dependent claims would also necessarily be patentable. Accordingly, Applicant does not separately discuss the patentability of the dependent claims, although it reserves the right to do so at a later time if necessary.

Claim 1 has been rejected for obviousness (35 U.S.C. § 103) given the combination of USP 5,000,194 ("Honert") and USP 6,024,702 ("Iversen").

Claim 1 has also further been rejected for obviousness given the combination of USP 6,162,101 ("Fischer"), Honert, and Iversen.

To further distinguish claim 1 from the cited references, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that the electrical contacts are "coupled to an edge" of the printed circuit board. This limitation is supported by Applicant's disclosure. See, e.g., Applicant's Specification, ¶ [0103]; Figs. 11C and 11D, showing electrical contacts 240 coupled to the edge of the printed circuit board 300.

This limitation is not disclosed or suggested in any of the references. The Examiner agrees that neither Honert nor Fischer disclose the printed circuit board in any manner, and thus obviously fails to disclose the newly added limitation quoted above. Moreover, Iversen—the secondary reference used by the Examiner to illustrate the use of a printed circuit board—also does not disclose or suggest electrical contacts coupled to an edge of the printed circuit board. Instead, the relevant electrical contacts in Iversen (22; Fig. 5) are formed on top of the printed circuit board.

In short, neither Honert, Fischer, nor Iversen disclose or suggest this newly added limitation to the claims. Accordingly, no possible combination of these references can render claim 1 (or claims dependent thereon) unpatentable for obviousness. See MPEP § 2143.03.

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Based on the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1 and 3-14 are allowable, and requests that a Notice of Allowance issue for these claims.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Terril Lewis /

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